

**1917**

American soldiers embark for the front in France.



Continued on page 28

**OCT. 4**

Pope Paul VI touches down in New York City for a brief 14-hour trip to the United States – the first time a pontiff had visited the nation. Over the course of the visit, Pope Paul gave a blessing at St. Patrick's Cathedral, met with President Lyndon B. Johnson, addressed the United Nations, celebrated Mass at Yankee Stadium, and visited the World's Fair in Flushing Meadows Corona Park.

**1965**

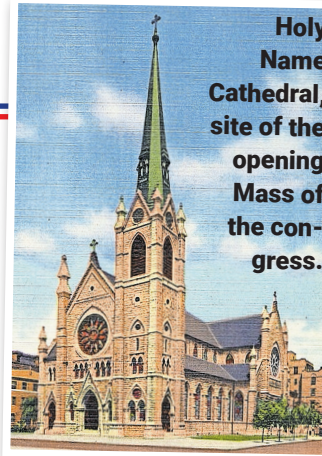


**EARLY JULY**

In response to the United States entering World War I, the nation's Catholic leaders establish the National Catholic War Council to coordinate the nation's Catholic response – recruiting military chaplains, promoting recreational services for troops, and focusing on ways to help displaced persons and child welfare. After the war, the bishops sought to continue and expand their collaboration on the national level. So, Cardinal James Gibbons, archbishop of Baltimore and the de facto leader of the U.S. Catholic hierarchy, wrote to Pope Benedict XV explaining their intentions. Pope Benedict ultimately approved the plan for a permanent organization, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, which, more than a century later, exists as the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**JUNE 20**

For the first time, the International Eucharistic Congress is held in the United States. Led by Cardinal George Mundelein, archbishop of Chicago, Catholics from more than a dozen nationalities attend the gathering, which runs through June 24, 1926. The congress culminates with a Eucharistic procession at the Theological Seminary of St. Mary-of-the-Lake, in Mundelein, Illinois, attended by 750,000 worshippers. On the last day, the closing Mass is attended by more than 850,000 people.



Holy Name Cathedral, site of the opening Mass of the congress.

**JAN. 20**

John F. Kennedy assumes office as the nation's first Catholic president, defeating Richard Nixon. He held office until he was assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963.

**1930**

**SEPT. 23**

Bishop Joseph Rummel of Omaha hosts the nation's sixth National Eucharistic Congress. For the first time, the National Eucharistic Congress is open to laypeople, has a lay committee, and has programming for the laity, as well. Estimates of the number of attendees range from 50,000 to 75,000.

**1961**

**MAY 1**

Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin launch the Catholic Worker Movement in New York City with the distribution of the first issue of The Catholic Worker newspaper. The organization focuses on promoting social justice and care for the poor. The movement continues today, and Dorothy Day is a Servant of God on the path to sainthood.



**1926**

**JUNE 28**

Alfred Smith becomes the first Catholic nominee for president, running as a Democrat in 1928 against Herbert Hoover, who went on to win a landslide.

**1928**

**1933**